

## Memorial

### Benjamin Latimer Southern (1898-1960)

The late Mr. Southern was born on the 2nd of November 1898, and commenced a career in chemistry as part-time temporary junior assistant in the Laboratories of the Government Analyst in 1917. He also studied at the Perth Technical School and in 1924 was elected an Associate of the Australian Chemical Institute. In the same year he registered as an Analyst under the Public Health Act and was appointed to the permanent staff of the Government Chemical Laboratories. Early in 1926 Mr. Southern suffered a serious illness which incapacitated him for some six months. Until 1947 Mr. Southern's work was in the Agricultural Division of the Laboratories with particular application to soils, and in 1935 he was admitted as a corporate member of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science.

In August, 1947, Mr. Southern was promoted to the position of Senior Analyst and Research

Officer in the Food and Drugs Division, a position which later became that of Second-in-charge of the Division and which he held at the time of his death on October 17th, 1960. In this latter position he retained an interest in agriculture and soils, but devoted his main attention to the determination of alcohol in blood and its interpretation in terms of intoxication. His service and experience in chemistry were recognized by his election as a Fellow of the Australian Chemical Institute in 1956.

Mr. Southern was for a long time a member of the Royal Society of Western Australia and an active participant in its affairs. He was Editor of the Society's Journal for 12 years (from 1930-31 to 1941-42) and has left abundant evidence of his industry and attention to detail.